

Sub D.
C2 cont.

-- 3. (Three Times Amended) A method for a Virtual Private Network (VPN) server that manages bandwidth of a remote link, comprising:

- assigning a portion of the bandwidth to at least one application group; and
- metering packets belonging to the application group;

wherein the server is directly connected to other links having larger bandwidth than the available bandwidth of the remote link; and wherein the VPN server is configured to at least one of authenticate, encapsulate, and de-encapsulate at least a portion of the packets.--

C3

--5. (Three Times Amended) A method for a Virtual Private Network (VPN) server that manages bandwidth of a remote link, comprising:

- assigning a portion of the bandwidth to at least one application group; and
- metering packets belonging to the application group;

wherein the packets belonging to the application group contend equally for the portion of the bandwidth; and wherein the VPN server is configured to at least one of authenticate, encapsulate, and de-encapsulate at least a portion of the packets.--

C4

--8. (Three Times Amended) A method for a Virtual Private Network (VPN) server that manages bandwidth of a remote link, comprising:

- assigning a portion of the bandwidth to at least one application group;
- metering packets belonging to the application group; and
- allowing a user to specify the bandwidth of the remote link from a user interface;

wherein the VPN server is configured to at least one of authenticate, encapsulate, and de-encapsulate at least a portion of the packets.--

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--9. (Three Times Amended) A method for a Virtual Private Network (VPN) server that manages bandwidth of a remote link, comprising:

- assigning a portion of the bandwidth to at least one application group;
- metering packets belonging to the application group; and
- allowing a user to specify the portion of the assigned bandwidth from a user interface;

wherein the VPN server is configured to at least one of authenticate, encapsulate, and de-encapsulate at least a portion of the packets.—

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--10. (Twice Amended) A system for managing bandwidth of a remote link comprising:

- a server;
- a contention pool having a portion of the bandwidth for at least one application group;

and

- a meter for metering the packets belonging to the application group;

wherein the server is a Virtual Private Network (VPN) server configured to at least one of authenticate, encapsulate, and de-encapsulate at least a portion of the packets.--

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--12. (Three Times Amended) A system for managing bandwidth of a remote link comprising:

- a Virtual Private Network (VPN) server;
- a contention pool having a portion of the bandwidth for at least one application group;

and

- a meter for metering packets belonging to the application group;

wherein the server is directly connected to other links having larger bandwidth than the available bandwidth of the remote link; and wherein the VPN server is configured to at least one of authenticate, encapsulate, and de-encapsulate at least a portion of the packets.--

--14. (Three Times Amended) A system for managing bandwidth of a remote link comprising:

a Virtual Private Network (VPN) server;

a contention pool having a portion of the bandwidth for at least one application group;

and

a meter for metering packets belonging to the application group;

wherein the packets belonging to the application group contend equally for the contention pool; and wherein the VPN server is configured to at least one of authenticate, encapsulate, and de-encapsulate at least a portion of the packets.--

--17. (Three Times Amended) A system for managing bandwidth of a remote link comprising:

a Virtual Private Network (VPN) server;

a contention pool having a portion of the bandwidth for at least one application group;

and

a meter for metering packets belonging to the application group; and

a user interface that allows a user to specify the bandwidth of the link;

wherein the VPN server is configured to at least one of authenticate, encapsulate, and de-encapsulate at least a portion of the packets.--